

ST. CHARLES PARISH URBAN FLOOD CONTROL STUDY, LA



- **Study Status:** Recon report completed in Nov 02

- **Study Cost:**

Recon	\$ 150,000
Feas (Fed/NonFed)	<u>\$4,200,000</u>
Total	\$4,350,000

- **FY04 Funding**

Required: \$450,000





Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-E
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: August , 2003

St. Charles Parish, LA Feasibility Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: The study was authorized by a 22 April 1999 resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives.

STUDY SPONSORS: The St. Charles Parish Council is the potential cost-sharing sponsor for the feasibility phase.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area would include all of St. Charles Parish, which is located in southeast Louisiana on the southwest shore of Lake Pontchartrain, about 25 miles west of New Orleans. The parish encompasses about 286 square miles on the east and west banks of the Mississippi River. Most of the east bank area portion of the parish is protected from river flooding by the Mississippi River levee and from storm surges from the lake by the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Hurricane Protection project. However, the levees impound rainfall and the interior drainage system is insufficient to prevent flooding from heavy rainfall events. Significant damages have occurred in recent years from the inability to drain the water and evacuate it via pumps. The west bank area is bordered on the north by Mississippi River levees, and in other areas by several non-Federal levees put in place to prevent flooding from rainfall events, and tidal surges from the south. Interior drainage is inadequate in many areas and numerous flood damages have resulted since 1978. Flood control improvements are needed to reduce repetitive damages to residential development.

STUDY PURPOSE: St. Charles Parish suffered severe rainfall flooding in November 1989, May 1995, and September 1998. Insurance payments resulting from the May 1995 flood totaled over \$57 million, representing almost 2,000 claims. Total damage payments since 1978 are \$72 million, with over 3,000 claims. There are 455 structures classified as repetitive loss, meaning that three or more claims have been paid on those structures within 10 years. Hurricane protection projects planned or underway are intended to reduce flooding associated with storm surges, but will not address problems associated with rainfall flooding.

STUDY PLAN: Because of the size and complexity of the study area, the reconnaissance study focused on a limited portion of the area. The plan for the feasibility study will be developed in coordination with the study sponsor.

STUDY COST:

Total Estimated Study Cost	\$ 4,350,000
Reconnaissance Phase (Federal)	\$ 150,000
Feasibility Phase (Federal)	\$ 2,100,000
Feasibility Phase (Non-Federal)	\$ 2,100,000

STUDY SCHEDULE: FY 2004 funding of \$450,000 is required to initiate the feasibility study and maintain the study schedule.

ISSUES: Proposed funding of \$100,000 will not be adequate to sustain the study schedule.